

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 260

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor Kermit Davis, the winningest coach in Middle Tennessee State University basketball history.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those excellent coaches who have led their players to success in athletic competition and in the game of life; and

WHEREAS, during the past fifteen years, Coach Kermit Davis has established himself as the heart and soul of Middle Tennessee State University's (MT's) men's basketball program and has guided the Blue Raiders to unprecedented heights of achievement; and

WHEREAS, Kermit Davis was recently named 2016-2017 Conference USA (C-USA) Coach of the Year in men's basketball, the sixth such award he has received during his twenty-two-year coaching career in NCAA Division I; he has also posted a phenomenal 443 wins; and

WHEREAS, he was named Big Sky Conference Coach of the Year in 1989 and 1990 as he led the Idaho Vandals to consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances; after beginning his tenure with MT, he was selected Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year in 2003, 2012, and 2013, and this year he claimed his first C-USA Coach of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, Coach Davis has recorded the most wins in MT basketball history with 306; his recent teams have enjoyed remarkable success, and he ranks in the top 25 nationally in number of wins during the past six years; and

WHEREAS, during that same time period, he has guided the Blue Raiders to wins over Michigan State, UCLA, Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Auburn, and Ole Miss (twice); and

WHEREAS, most importantly, Coach Davis has graduated forty-two consecutive student athletes who have exhausted their eligibility; to put this accomplishment into proper perspective,

Middle Tennessee was one of only seven schools with a 100 percent graduation rate to win a game in the 2016 NCAA Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Raiders won Sun Belt Conference regular season titles in 2010, 2012, and 2013 under his leadership; and

WHEREAS, in 2011-2012, the Blue Raiders posted a 27-7 overall record and reached the quarterfinals of the NIT, recording the school's first post-season wins in twenty-three years; in 2012-2013, Middle Tennessee went 28-6 and was selected to play in the NCAA Tournament; and

WHEREAS, in 2013-2014, Coach Davis led MT to a share of the C-USA regular season title as the team posted a 24-9 overall record and was 13-3 in conference action; and

WHEREAS, in 2015-2016, Coach Davis and the Blue Raiders attained true synergy when they won the school's first ever C-USA Tournament and an automatic bid to the Big Dance, the NCAA Tournament; and

WHEREAS, playing in St. Louis in the first round, the Blue Raiders made their own March Madness when they defeated No. 2-seed Michigan State 90-81 to post one of the biggest upsets of the 2016 NCAA Tournament and one of the biggest wins in Middle Tennessee basketball history; and

WHEREAS, during the 2016-2017 season, Coach Davis's Blue Raiders went 30-4 overall and 17-1 in conference games to claim the C-USA regular season title and were ranked 25th in the final regular-season *USA Today* Coaches Poll; and

WHEREAS, in the 2017 C-USA Tournament, Coach Davis put the throttle down as the Blue Raiders dominated the competition to win their second consecutive conference title and claim an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, in which MT was seeded 12th in the South Region; and

WHEREAS, Kermit Davis has earned his fifth bid to the NCAA Tournament and distinguished himself as a great basketball coach, tactician, and motivator of young men, and he should be appropriately recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Kermit Davis, the winningest coach in Middle Tennessee State University basketball history, on being selected Conference USA Coach of the Year in men's basketball and extend to him our best wishes for continued success in the NCAA Tournament.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.